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Soviet Fortifications on Islands of the Sungari River

April 1948

1. Pillboxes have been constructed by the Soviets on two islands in the Sungari River--"Big" Lo-le-mi (128-58, 45-53) and "Small" Lo-le-mi (129-01, 45-54). The pillboxes are fifteen meters in diameter and ten meters in height. Troops armed with bazookas guard the pillboxes.

Comment.

the date of the construction of the pillboxes was not stated. Although no islands with the names given above can be located on maps available to this office, there are a Ta-lo-lo-mi-ho (大勒勒密河) (129-10, 45-57) and a Hsiao-lo-lo-mi-ho (小勒勒密河) (129-45-) in the area

Soviet Defenses in the Sanchakou Area

Late 1946-April 1948

2. The boundary marker erected by Manchukuo authorities near Sanchakou (131-14, 44-01) was removed by Soviet troops in the latter part of 1946 and replaced four li inside the Chinese border. Barbed wire defenses have been built along this new border line and Chinese land owners have been unable to reclaim their former land.

3. There are no border defenses directly between Sanchakou and the Soviet border, but a three to four man Soviet cavalry patrol passes through the area every two hours.

4. A barbed wire fence, four feet in height (possibly the fence mentioned in paragraph 2), has been built along a small stream that runs north and south near Sanchakou, forming the first defense obstacle in the Soviet border

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fortifications. Ten li behind this first barrier, small pillboxes, spaced 500-800 meters apart, have been constructed just behind a four strand barbed wire fence. These pillboxes are round concrete structures, painted white, about six feet in height, eight feet in diameter and extending six feet below the level of the ground.

5. Behind these fortifications, about ten kilometers from the border, larger pillboxes, similar in design to those above, have been constructed at 1,000-2,000 meter intervals. These pillboxes are six to seven meters high, five meters in diameter and accommodate about twenty-five persons each. Called "commanding fortresses" by Soviet personnel, they are placed five kilometers before the main Soviet defense line.
6. Telephones have been installed in both the large and the small pillboxes. The land around the installations is being machine cultivated by Soviet personnel. Soviet troops are quartered in underground billets.
7. Soviet single-engine aircraft reconnoiter the Sanchakou area every morning. Chinese Communist soldiers state that these planes fly between Hunchun (130-22, 42-52) and Poli (135-04, 48-30 or 130-31, 45-45).
8. In 1946, Soviet personnel began the construction of underground defenses within the USSR, about three kilometers from the border in the Suifenho (131-09, 44-23)-Sanchakou area. These defenses resemble native mud farm-houses above the ground, but the underground portions are made of concrete. These structures are built in straight rows of fifteen to twenty buildings. Grass and trees have been planted around the defenses.

Chinese Communist Activities in the Border Area

9. Chinese Communist leaders from the Sanchakou area often visit the Soviet "commanding fortresses" for conferences with Soviet authorities.
10. Chinese Communist troops have established eleven ammunition dumps 800 meters east of the Tungning (131-07, 44-03) railroad station. The eleven dumps occupy an area of about 300 meters square and are built of reinforced concrete. Since December 1947, ammunition brought from the USSR has been stored in these dumps.

Comment. Although the accuracy of distances and measurements for most of the above material is undetermined, it is felt that the report may give some indication of the pattern of Soviet defense installations in the Siberia-Manchuria border areas.)

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